

Update on request for information from previous meeting –

Action: Contact the Housing Service for future projections regarding CS13 (KPI 6) – the number of households living in temporary accommodation, including budgets

Response from the Housing Section Head

At 30 August 2013, there were 105 households in temporary accommodation. This compares to 103 at the end of March 2013.

We are making more use of nightly lets as an alternative to B&B so that households can benefit from self contained accommodation and can prepare food.

At the end of August the 105 households accommodated included 12 households in nightly lets and 6 in B&B accommodation.

The situation regarding homelessness projections remains complex, as explained in the briefing note submitted in March 2013. However, we have set guideline figures to inform our quarterly monitoring going forward as below:

Qu 2. 115 households
Qu 3. 120 households
Qu. 4 132 households.

Our revised Homelessness Strategy will be submitted to Cabinet in October 2013 and includes actions to increase the supply of temporary accommodation and longer term accommodation in the private rented sector.

In addition to our ongoing preventative casework, the supply side issues which are monitored include:

- Newbuild pipeline projection of 133 units in 2013/14 compared to 184 last year
- 10 private sector properties made available in Quarter 1 compared to 53 last year. New HomeLet Scheme launched in July 2013 with a target of increasing access to the private rented sector.

In terms of budget, hostels and regular temporary accommodation are self financing through rents. A proportion of B&B charges are recouped through Housing Benefit and client contribution. For 2013/14 the service has agreed a B&B gross budget of £150,890 which is allowing for the previous peak demand. While the current prediction is that this gross spend may be exceeded, there will be a corresponding increase in monies which can be recouped which means that the net budget spend should not be exceeded. Current projection is for a net spend of £70,000 - £80,000.